

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER
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EMS Transmission
Information Bulletin No. ST-2002-091

To: All NSTC, NIRMC, NBC, and NHRMC Employees

From: Director, National Science and Technology Center

Subject: 2002 Participation in the Fire Program

The 2002 wildland fire season started extremely early in the Southwest and California. Due to prolonged drought in portions of the country, wildland fires exhibiting extreme fire behavior have grown larger than expected and heavily taxed the Nation's wildland firefighting resource. The BLM offices at the National Centers typically contain personnel with specialized or scarce skills (for example, Infrared Interpreters, Information Officers, GIS Specialists, and Cost Specialists). Providing personnel, especially those with scarce skills, is important to national firefighting efforts.

BLM employees working in the National Centers and interested in participating in the fire program are encouraged to first discuss potential participation with their supervisor, and then read and sign the attached form. Interested employees then need to contact Susan Goodman, Fire Management Specialist, in the National Science and Technology Center to determine their qualifications for special assignments and to be registered for call out in the national fire management system.

Actual assignments are made through the employee's supervisor to ensure employee availability. A National Fire Preparedness Plan has been established to assist supervisors and managers in the decision-making process for releasing staff for fire assignments. This Plan describes five "national preparedness levels" dictated by burning conditions, fire activity, and resource availability. Resource availability is the area of most concern. A Preparedness Level 1 means that there are no large fires nationally and that most geographic areas have low to moderate fire danger. A Level 5 indicates that several geographic areas are experiencing major incidents which have the potential to exhaust all agency fire resources.

BLM National Center Directors have agreed to the following guidelines for release of personnel for fire assignments.

Level 3 Employee's regular workload is an overriding concern. However, staff having nationally scarce technological or specialty skills should be released if the supervisor can spare the employee.

Level 4 Greater consideration should be given to making staff available for fire assignment. Staff having nationally scarce technological and or specialty skills should be released, but the decision to release an employee remains a first-level management decision.

Level 5 If requested, supervisors must make all qualified and capable personnel available for fire assignment. Wildland firefighting is the BLM's & the Department's top priority.

To determine the National Fire Preparedness Level at any time please go to: www.nifc.gov/news/sitreprt.pdf. The National Fire Preparedness Level is indicated near the top of the Incident Management Situation Report.

If you have any questions regarding this information bulletin, please contact Susan by phone at (303) 236-4242 or email (susan_goodman@blm.gov).

Signed by:
Lee Barkow, Director
National Science and
Technology Center

Authenticated by:
Elsie Pacheco
Staff Assistant

1 Attachment
1 – 2002 Fire Program Participation Form (1 p)

Distribution
ST-150, BLM Library

**2002 Fire Program
Participation Form**

To be completed before June 30, 2002:

I am interested in participating in the 2002 Fire Program. I understand that, when available, I'm on call 24 hours a day. I also understand that I may be gone on an assignment for a maximum of 14 consecutive days. If my supervisor changes during the fire season, I will inform Susan Goodman.

Employee

Date

As the above employee's supervisor, I approve this employee's participation in the 2002 Fire Program. I will inform Susan Goodman when the above employee is not available for a fire assignment. I also understand that if I do not put any restrictions on the employee's availability, the employee may be away from the office for up to 14 days at a time.

Supervisor

Date

Restrictions of Employee's Availability are outlined below:

Employee's Office Phone Number

Employee's Home Phone Number

